



**GRANT RECIPIENT**  
SAVE THE DUNES  
CONSERVATION FUND

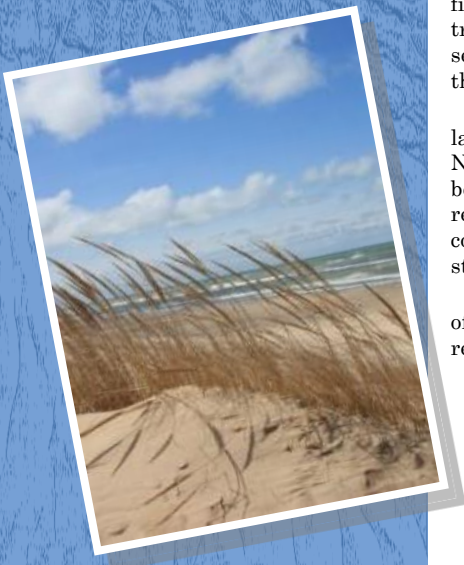
**YEAR**  
2006

**COUNTY**  
PORTER/LA PORTE

**CATEGORY**  
EDUCATION/OUTREACH

**GRANT AWARD**  
\$64,500

**LOCAL SHARE**  
\$64,500



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Lake Michigan Coastal Program  
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Chesterton, IN 46304  
(219) 983-9912  
[www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich](http://www.in.gov/dnr/lakemich)



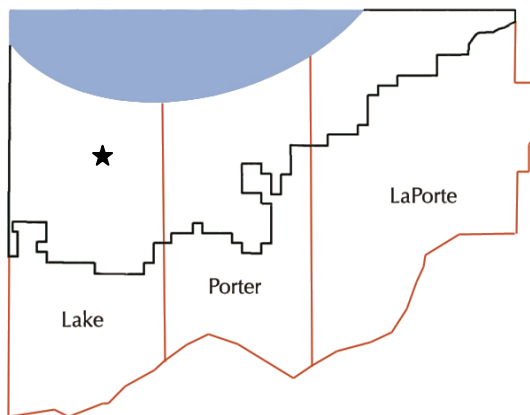
### Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team – Training, Working, Outreach

Save the Dunes Conservation Fund addressed the need for natural area management training by coordinating training for the purpose of controlling invasive plants. Innovative training concepts as well as traditional training were offered through an Education/Outreach project titled, Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team-Training, Working, Outreach (ICRAT-TWO.) Natural area management training was a priority of the Coastal Advisory Board for 2006.

It built upon the Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team (ICRAT) Project. The ICRAT project met or exceeded its measurable outcomes. Twenty-four field trainings and 13 training workshops were held with participation from 208 various people. Of this total, 14% attended two events, 5% attended three, and 7% attended four or more. Fifteen people have become CORE registered herbicide technicians. Twenty-one became red carded from the 130/190 fire training and initially were offered a job on a wildfire taking place in another state. The training resulted in 6 enhanced positions in the private sector, 3 enhanced positions in the public sector, one hiring and one potential hiring. Others have been contacted for participation in fires throughout the country.

This partnership among public and private organizations further collaborated among land managers and worked with the partnerships created in the ICRAT project, such as the Northwest Indiana Invasive Plant Network (NIIPN.) Save the Dunes Conservation Fund had been funded by Chicago Wilderness to work with NIIPN partners to identify data and recommend management strategies relating to restoration efforts in Porter and LaPorte counties. This further strengthened our partnerships among land managers and regional stakeholders.

The partnerships created further enabled the action team that was established outside of the ICRAT project. The goal of this collaborative team effort was to work together on restoration projects within the coastal area on a revolving basis.



**RESULT:** Innovative Training Concepts Taught.